



**MAYOR DICK MURPHY  
Science and Technology Commission  
MEETING MINUTES**

The San Diego Science and Technology Commission (SDS&TC) held a special meeting on September 14, 2004 hosted by Community and Economic Development located at 600B Street, San Diego, CA 92101.

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Dr. Martha Dennis, SDS&TC Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Members present: Craig Andrews, Daniel Chang, Jon Cohen, Dr. Martha Dennis, Dr. Tom Dillon, Charles Holland, Kristopher Lichter, Susan Myrland, Dr. Gail Naughton, Marc Nemer, Tyler Orion, Craig Roberts, and Maurice Wilson. Members absent: Dr. Hui Cai, Scott Corlett, Scott Randall, Carrie Stone, and Julie Meier Wright. Community & Economic Development Department staff members: Toni Dillon, Tina Hines, Ana Maria Jaramillo, and Jeff Kavar.
- II. **WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS:** Dr. Dennis welcomed Mr. Daniel Chang, Mr. Kristopher Lichter, and Mr. Marc Nemer to the Science and Technology Commission. Mr. Daniel Chang is the Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of AEM, Inc. Mr. Chang holds a Masters degree in Material Science from the University of Southern California. Mr. Kristopher Lichter is Manager of, Channels Healthcare and Life Science Solutions with IBM. Mr. Lichter holds a Bachelors degree in Biology and Economics from Bucknell University and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Georgetown University. Mr. Marc Nemer is a Corporate Associate at Latham & Watkins LLP. Mr. Nemer holds a Bachelors degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Law degree from Harvard Law School.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment and the Commission moved on to Agenda item IV.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR:** June 16, 2004  
(MOTION/Dillon/Orion/UNANIMOUS)
- V. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF UPDATE**
  - A. **San Diego Fire Department and Biotechnology Collaboration Update:** Ana Maria Jaramillo stated that she was contacted in January by representatives from the biotechnology industry because of their lack of satisfaction with Fire Department regulatory processes. Jaramillo was asked to facilitate meetings with the Fire Department and executives from biotechnology companies to discuss fire code interpretation and laboratory practices. Jaramillo mentioned that during these meetings the following three critical issues emerged: 1) The placement of identification signs; 2) The frequency of hazardous materials reports; 3) The need for the use of plastic bottles in biotechnology labs.

Jaramillo concluded by stating that new policies have been created by this collaboration to resolve the three issues. These new policies will enable biotechnology to continue to operate effectively and adhere to fire code regulations. Jaramillo anticipates that Biocom will highlight this invaluable collaboration and new policies in the near future.

The Commission agreed to write a letter of acknowledgment to Chief Bowman of the City of San Diego Fire Rescue Department commending staff for the Fire Prevention Bureau's collaboration with the biotech industry.

## VI. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

- A. Digital Inclusion Workgroup- Digital Inclusion Economic Prosperity follow-on study: Ms. Tyler Orion reiterated that the Digital Inclusion Workgroup convened stake holders such as the San Diego Futures Foundation, City libraries, City Economic Development, Community Technology Centers, the Regional Technology Alliance (RTA), and the Urban League to further discuss the digital divide issue. An outcome these discussions, was the Regional Technology Alliance being contracted by the Waitt Foundation and S&T Commission to conduct two distinct studies. The study for the Waitt Foundation would update the report prepared by the RTA in the year 2000 entitled "Mapping a Future for Digital Connections". The S&T Commission follow-on study would examine the impact of the digital inclusion issue to provide an opportunity cost relative to workforce development in San Diego.

Ms. Orion cited the following inferences from the Waitt Foundation's nearly completed study entitled "San Diego's Digital Divide Revisited": 1) although San Diego is ahead of the nation by population in computer usage and internet access there are still some disparities among select groups; 2) income and education is still a factor in relation to computer ownership and computer literacy.

In conclusion, Ms. Orion noted three recommendations that could aid in bridging the gap in digital access: 1) to continue funding of community technology programs; 2) to coordinate outreach efforts to make San Diegans aware of computer access and training opportunities; 3) to continue support of computer ownership and broadband internet. Ms. Orion announced that the report for the Waitt Foundation will be released in October. The report for the S&T Commission should be completed in November.

- B. Science and Technology for Economic Prosperity- STEP Forum Policy Recommendations: Toni Dillon, during a brief recap, cited that the goal of the STEP Forum was to engage civic entrepreneurs, trade organizations, businesses, and institutions in a facilitated dialogue. The focus of the dialogue was to obtain feedback about the challenges faced by science and technology companies. Dillon mentioned that feedback from forum participants was summarized into concerns regarding the local talent squeeze, housing and business costs, regulatory uncertainty, and the regional perception of the science and technology cluster.

Dillon stated that the STEP Forum recommendations can be encapsulated into the following concepts: 1) development of a comprehensive talent strategy to address workforce challenges and to create a strong industry-education collaboration to prepare people for opportunities within in science and technology industries; 2) intensify the City's economic development priority focus to support science and technology traded clusters; 3) adopt land use and transportation policies that enhance the growth of science and technology traded clusters; 4) Reduce regulatory uncertainty; 5) formally recognize the importance and potential of science and technology based industries and their contribution to the local economy.

Upon the conclusion of the discussion of STEP Forum recommendations, Dillon asked for the compilation of a list of initiatives that can be undertaken by the Commissioners. This list of initiatives could potentially be included with STEP Forum recommendations to be

presented to City Council. It is probable that the presentation to City Council by the S&T Commission will in be December. Dillon also suggested that companies within the science and technology cluster should be informed of the ability to approach the S&T Commission with issues.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS: The next meeting will be October 20, 2004 from 3 P.M to 5 P.M.

VIII. ADJOURN: There being no further business of the Commission; this meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.